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ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

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DE WTE #3079 2271217

State Dept., OSD, NSA  
reviews completed

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FM THE SITUATION ROOM  
TO LORD/RODMAN FOR DR KISSINGER  
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AUGUST 14, 1972

MORI PER C03353191

MEMORANDUM FOR:

THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

HENRY A. KISSINGER

SUBJECT:

INFORMATION ITEMS

MILITARY SITUATION IN VIETNAM: U.S. TACTICAL AIRCRAFT YESTERDAY AND EARLY THIS MORNING WERE SCHEDULED TO HIT RAILROAD BRIDGES AND A SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILE SITE IN THE THANH HOA AREA; STORAGE AREAS AND A SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILE SITE NEAR VINH; AND STORAGE AREAS, MILITARY INSTALLATIONS AND LINES OF COMMUNICATION IN THE HANOI-HAIPHONG AREA. LATE REPORTS INDICATE THAT MANY OF THE SCHEDULED STRIKES AGAINST TARGETS NORTHEAST AND SOUTHWEST OF HANOI WERE CANCELLED DUE TO POOR WEATHER CONDITIONS. THIRTY-SIX B-52 SORTIES WERE FLOWN IN NORTH VIETNAM. NO BOMB DAMAGE ASSESSMENT IS CURRENTLY AVAILABLE.

THE HEAVY ENEMY SHELLING OF MARINE FORCES IN QUANG TRI CITY HAS SUBSIDED SOMEWHAT, POSSIBLY AS A RESULT OF TACTICAL AIR AND B-52 STRIKES ON COMMUNIST FIRING POSITIONS. THE MARINES REPORTED TEN KILLED AND 36 WOUNDED IN SEVERAL ATTACKS-BY-FIRE. GROUND CONTACTS IN THE CITY WERE SPORADIC AND RESULTED IN 33 ENEMY KILLED; MARINE CASUALTIES WERE LIGHT. IN THE AIRBORNE AREA OF OPERATIONS, SEVERAL LIGHT CONTACTS WERE REPORTED NEAR FIRE SUPPORT BASE NANCY, RESULTING IN 28 ENEMY KILLED AND ONE TANK DESTROYED. ARVN LOSSES WERE REPORTED AS ONE KILLED AND 25 WOUNDED. FARTHER SOUTH IN MILITARY REGION 1, ENEMY SHELLING WAS LIGHT FOR THE SECOND CONSECUTIVE DAY IN THE AREA AROUND HUE, WHILE 41 ENEMY WERE KILLED IN CONTACTS NEAR FIRE SUPPORT BASE ROSS.

IN MILITARY REGION 2, THE PLEI DJERENG BORDER CAMP, WEST OF PLEIKU, RECEIVED AN ATTACK OF OVER 100 MIXED MORTAR/RECOILLESS RIFLE ROUNDS. THIS ATTACK, THE THIRD IN THE AREA SINCE AUGUST 8, INDICATES THAT ELEMENTS OF THE NVA 320TH DIVISION REMAIN IN THE AREA, AND WILL PROBABLY CONTINUE WIDESPREAD, LIMITED OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS. LAST NIGHT, THE PLEIKU AMMUNITION DUMP BEGAN EXPLODING FROM UNKNOWN CAUSES. OVER 1,100 TONS OF AMMUNITION HAVE BEEN DESTROYED IN TWO SUCH INCIDENTS, POSSIBLY DUE TO SABOTAGE.

ENEMY-INITIATED ACTIVITY HAS INCREASED IN THE PAST FEW DAYS IN THE PHUOC BINH AREA OF PHUOC LONG PROVINCE, WHERE HEAVY ATTACKS-BY-FIRE HAVE BEEN REPORTED, AND NEAR AN LOC, WITH FRIENDLY-INITIATED CONTACTS RESULTING IN 34 ENEMY KILLED. MEANWHILE, THE RECENT

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INCREASE IN SHELLINGS AND SAPPER ACTIVITY IN AREAS NORTHWEST, EAST AND SOUTH OF SAIGON SUGGESTS THAT FRIENDLY INSTALLATIONS NEAR THE CAPITAL MAY ALSO COME UNDER ATTACK. ARVN FORCES, HOWEVER, ARE BEING MOVED TO COPE WITH THE POSSIBLE THREAT.

IN THE DELTA, FRIENDLY GROUND OPERATIONS, SUPPORTED BY AIR STRIKES, CONTINUE TO INFLICT HEAVY CASUALTIES ON THE ENEMY IN NORTHERN MILITARY REGION 4. ENEMY LOSSES YESTERDAY WERE REPORTED AS 192 KILLED AND 32 DETAINED.

INTELLIGENCE ANALYSIS SUGGESTS THAT ADDITIONAL ELEMENTS OF THE NVA 312TH DIVISION, POSSIBLY THE 209TH REGIMENT, MAY HAVE DEPLOYED ACROSS THE DMZ AND MAY SOON BE COMMITTED IN THE BATTLE FOR QUANG TRI CITY. ONE OTHER REGIMENT OF THE 312TH HAS BEEN IN THE QUANG TRI CITY AREA FOR SEVERAL WEEKS.

A MORE DETAILED ACCOUNT OF THE MILITARY SITUATION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA IS AT TAB A.

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CAMBODIAN MILITARY SITUATION: THE MILITARY SITUATION HAS EASED ALONG ROUTE 1. A RELIEF COLUMN HAS ALMOST REACHED THE GOVERNMENT BATTALIONS THAT WERE PUSHED OUT OF KOMPONG TRABEK LAST WEEK. CAMBODIAN COMMANDERS IN THE AREA REPORT THAT LARGE NUMBERS OF COMMUNIST TRUCKS HAVE BEEN MOVING SOUTH ACROSS ROUTE 1. THIS LENDS SOME WEIGHT TO SPECULATION THAT THE COMMUNIST ATTACKS IN TRABEK WERE DESIGNED TO PROTECT SUPPLY MOVEMENTS TOWARD THE SOUTH VIETNAM BORDER.

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THE CAMBODIANS ARE FARING LESS WELL IN THE SIEM REAP AREA. THE COMMUNISTS ARE CONTINUING TO HARASS THE 6,000-MAN CAMBODIAN FORCE DUG IN NEAR THE ANGKOR WAT COMPLEX, WHILE OTHER COMMUNIST UNITS HAVE CUT ROUTE 6 WEST OF SIEM REAP CITY. AT LAST REPORT, FIGHTING WAS CONTINUING AT POUK, A TOWN SITUATED ON ROUTE 6 ABOUT TEN MILES WEST OF SIEM REAP.

CHIANG KAI-SHEK TREATED FOR PNEUMONIA: EMBASSY TAIPEI HAS REPORTED THAT IT HAS RELIABLE INFORMATION THAT PRESIDENT CHIANG KAI-SHEK HAS BEEN HOSPITALIZED. ACCORDING TO A RELIABLE SOURCE, THE 84-YEAR OLD PRESIDENT WAS STRICKEN BY THE FLU ABOUT TWO WEEKS AGO, WHICH RESULTED IN HIS HOSPITALIZATION ON AUGUST 4 WITH A DIAGNOSIS OF BACTERIAL PNEUMONIA.

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PAKISTAN - BANGLADESH RELATIONS: PRESIDENT BHUTTO, WITH THE HELP OF THE CHINESE AT THE UN, IS ATTEMPTING TO IMPROVE HIS BARGAINING POSITION VIS-A-VIS BANGLADESH AND TO PUT ADDITIONAL PRESSURE ON MUJIB. ABANDONING HIS EARLIER PLAN TO USE THE FORTHCOMING SESSION OF HIS NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AS A CONVENIENT DEVICE TO BRING ABOUT THE RECOGNITION OF BANGLADESH WITHOUT TAKING THE ONUS PERSONALLY, BHUTTO HAS NOW SHELVED THE RECOGNITION ISSUE FOR THE TIME BEING AND WITH THE CHINESE VETO ON BANGLADESH UN MEMBERSHIP, IS INDIRECTLY PRESSURING MUJIB TO NEGOTIATE THE RETURN OF THE PAKISTANI POWS. UNTIL NOW, BHUTTO HAS HAD ONLY TWO IMPORTANT CHIPS TO PLAY IN NEGOTIATION WITH MUJIB -- RECOGNITION AND THE RETURN OF BENGALIS DETAINED IN PAKISTAN -- BUT NOW THE APPARENT CHINESE WILLINGNESS TO VETO BANGLADESH UN MEMBERSHIP UNTIL THE POWS ARE RETURNED GIVES HIM A THIRD.

BHUTTO MAY HAVE STRENGTHENED HIS BARGAINING POSITION SOME, BUT THE PROSPECTS FOR AN EARLY RESOLUTION OF THE PAKISTAN - BANGLADESH PROBLEM HAVE NOT IMPROVED. WHEREAS PREVIOUSLY BHUTTO WAS MOVING

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TOWARD RECOGNITION OF BANGLADESH AS THE ONLY WAY TO BEGIN TO BREAK THE LOGJAM ON THE POWS, THE CHINESE VETO AT THE UN HAS GIVEN HIM ANOTHER WAY TO POSSIBLY FORCE MUJIB TO NEGOTIATE ON THE POWS WITHOUT RECOGNITION. MUJIB, HOWEVER, SHOWS NO SIGNS OF WAVERING AND WITH INDIAN SUPPORT (THEY HOLD THE POWS) IS ABLE TO BLOCK THE RETURN OF THE POWS UNTIL PAKISTANI RECOGNITION AND THE RETURN OF THE DETAINED BENGALIS. BHUTTO AND MUJIB MAY NOW SIMPLY WAIT EACH OTHER OUT, BUT BHUTTO WOULD APPEAR TO BE IN A WEAKER POSITION BECAUSE OF DOMESTIC PRESSURE FOR THE RETURN OF THE POWS.

INDIA'S FOOD SITUATION: LESS THAN NORMAL RAINFALL DURING THE EARLY MONSOON PERIOD IS EXPECTED TO RESULT IN A SUBSTANTIAL DECREASE (ABOUT 12 MILLION TONS) IN THE PRODUCTION OF FOOD GRAINS, BUT OUR EMBASSY ESTIMATES THAT IF AVERAGE WEATHER CONDITIONS PREVAIL FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE CROP YEAR THE INDIANS CAN COPE WITH THE SHORTFALL WITHOUT OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE. THANKS IN PART TO PAST PL-480 ASSISTANCE, THE INDIANS HAVE BUILT UP OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS A SUBSTANTIAL FOOD GRAIN STOCKPILE (ABOUT 9.5 MILLION TONS), AND THEY ARE TAKING STRONG MEASURES TO MEET THE TWIN PROBLEMS OF DISTRIBUTION AND PRICE PRESSURES.

SHOULD THE RAINS FALTER DURING THE REMAINDER OF THE CROP YEAR, OR SHOULD THE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM FAIL TO WORK AS EFFECTIVELY AS ANTICIPATED, INDIA COULD STILL BE FORCED INTO THE WORLD MARKET FOR SOME OF ITS FOOD GRAIN NEEDS. FOR ANY SIGNIFICANT IMPORTS OF WHEAT AND/OR COARSE GRAINS INDIA WOULD PROBABLY HAVE TO TURN TO THE U.S. -- THE ONLY COUNTRY WITH SIZEABLE STOCKS READILY AVAILABLE -- BUT THEY ARE UNLIKELY TO TAKE ANY INITIATIVE FOR U.S. FOOD ASSISTANCE ON CONCESSIONAL TERMS, EVEN IF CONDITIONS APPRECIABLY WORSEN. IN FACT, GOVERNMENT SPOKESMEN HAVE PUBLICLY AND EMPHATICALLY DECLARED THAT INDIA WILL NOT SEEK PL-480 ASSISTANCE.

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